liberal by raising the value limit now fixed and empowering local revenue officers to grant free timber in such cases without reference to Forest Department will be considered by Government.

SUBJECT No. 17.

Free grant of timber for the repairs and construction of all religious institutions.

Messrs. Nadig Lakshmana Rao and Nadig Bhaskara Rao, Sorab Taluk.

The members requested that as there was a large number of temples, etc., not under the control of the Muzrai Department, the question of supplying timber to them free might be favourably considered.

Reply of Government.—This is more a muzrai subject. If the Deputy Commissioners recommend the grant of free timber for the repairs and construction of any particular religious institution, necessary relief will be given by Government. It is not possible to lay down a general rule in the matter.

SUBJECT No. 18.

Reduction of tax on fuel.

Mr. Anantha Padmanabha Thivari, Hiriyur Taluk.

The member complained that the prevailing rates of seigniorage were very high and that the tax on head loads of fuel should be removed altogether. In the case of removal of fuel also the member requested that the present distinction between agriculturists who were entitled to the concession and non-agriculturists should be abolished.

Reply of Government.—The price of fuel is now ruling high and the increase of tax will not therefore affect the people severely. The increase in the rates on seigniorage was sanctioned on the recommendation of the Special Finance Committee. The seigniorage rate for head loads does not seem to have been increased. The question will be examined and any possible reduction in the rates will be effected.

SUBJECT No. 19.

Supply of fuel from State Forests to raiyats.

Mr. Shanmukhappa, Holalkere Taluk.

The member explained that in a maidan district like Chitaldrug much difficulty was being felt to obtain fuel as almost all the fuel coups were being purchased outright by merchants from Davangere, etc., on contract.

The First Member of Council.—asked the member to give a concrete instance when it would be possible to afford necessary relief.

Reply of Government.—Fuel coupes are sold only when there is no local demand. However, in cases of hardships brought to the notice of Forest Department, arrangments will be made to reserve the coupes for the use of the local people, and only such as are not required by them will be sold on contract to outsiders.

SUBJECT No. 20.

Appeals against the District Forest Officer to be preferred before the Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Anantha Padmanabha Thivari, Hiriyur Taluk.

The member urged that it was necessary to make the Deputy Commissioner the appellate authority against the orders of the District Forest Officer as it was causing considerable hardship for the people to appear before the Conservator of Forests. In the absence of information as to the kinds of cases in which appeals should lie before the Deputy Commissioner, it was considered not possible to give any definite opinion. The member undertook to cite instances in which loss of revenue had occurred to Government by the Deputy Commissioners not being consulted by the Forest Department.

Reply of Government.—It is not desirable that the Deputy Commissioners should have any voice in departmental question relating to departmental revenue and the procedure about appeals, etc., which have been laid down after careful consideration cannot be revised.